**Withdrawal of flights due to shortage of pilots**

1565. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's rapidly growing civil aviation sector is facing an acute shortage of trained pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the crunch of trained pilots with the public sector carrier has forced Government to withdraw some of the flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of trained pilots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no general shortage of pilots. However, there is a shortage of aircraft type endorsed pilots, particularly in the Commander category.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In order to have sufficient quality pilots over longer period of time the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) is being modernised through upgradation of civil and electrical infrastructure and acquisition of additional trainer aircraft. IGRUA has also entered into a management contract with M/s. CAE, a reputed international organisation in this field, to professionalise its management. The Government has also decided to set up a world-class institute at Gondia in Maharashtra as Joint Venture Enterprise under the aegis of Airports Authority of India. The other flying clubs in the country are also being supported by the Central Government by way of providing funds for acquisition of trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero Club of India.

**Development of Thiruvanthapuram airport**

1566. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for developing Thiruvanthapuram Airport upto international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government plan of action to bring the Airport upto International level and the time of accomplising the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Thiruvanthapuram Airport is already an international airport. The work for provision of state of the art International Terminal at an estimated cost of Rs.245 crores is in progress and is expected to be completed during the year 2009.

**Modernization of Dumdum airport**

1567. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: